

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

A complete listing of the claims is as follows:

Claim 1. (*Currently Amended*) A hollow surfboard ~~aquatic-gliding board~~ comprising:

a lower half-shell having no lateral side-walls;

an upper half-shell comprising a sheet of foam having downwardly curved side-walls, said upper half-shell being adapted to support a standing person during use of the ~~gliding board~~ surfboard;

at least one longitudinal partition, at least said one longitudinal partition vertically connecting said lower and upper half-shells;

said longitudinal partition consisting essentially of foam.

Claim 2. (*Currently Amended*) A hollow surfboard ~~aquatic-gliding board~~ according to claim 1, wherein:

said at least one longitudinal partition comprises a plurality of longitudinal partitions made of foam, said foam being exposed to an inner cavity of the board.

Claim 3. (*Currently Amended*) A hollow surfboard ~~aquatic-gliding board~~ according to claim 1, wherein:

said at least one longitudinal partition is made of an elastic foam, said elastic foam, providing said upper half-shell with an ability to deflect relative to said lower half-shell under pressure exerted by a foot of the user, said elastic foam being exposed to an inner cavity of the board.

Claim 4. (*Currently Amended*) A hollow surfboard ~~aquatic-gliding board~~ according to claim 2, wherein:

said plurality of longitudinal partitions are made of an elastic foam providing said upper half-shell with an ability to deflect relative to said lower half-shell under pressure exerted by a foot of the user.

Claim 5. (*Currently Amended*) A hollow surfboard ~~aquatic board~~ according to claim 1, wherein:

said upper half-shell has been thermoformed to form said downwardly curved side-walls.

Claim 6. (*Currently Amended*) A hollow surfboard ~~aquatic board~~ according to claim 1, wherein:

said lower half shell has not been thermoformed.

Claim 7. (*Currently Amended*) A hollow surfboard ~~aquatic-gliding board~~ according to claim 1, wherein:

said upper half-shell and said lower half-shell are assembled by gluing a lower edge of said lateral sidewalls of said upper half-shell against an upper surface of said lower half-shell.

Claim 8. (*Currently Amended*) A hollow surfboard ~~aquatic-gliding board~~ according to claim 1, wherein:

said foam sheet of said upper half-shell is laminated on opposite sides with at least one layer of resin-impregnated fibers.

Claim 9. (*Currently Amended*) A hollow surfboard ~~aquatic-gliding-board~~ according to claim 1, wherein:

said at least one partition is made of polypropylene foam.

Claim 10. (*Currently Amended*) A hollow surfboard ~~aquatic-gliding-board~~ according to claim 9, wherein:

said polypropylene foam comprises an expanded polypropylene particle foam having a density of approximately 60 kg/m³.

Claim 11. (*Currently Amended*) A hollow surfboard ~~aquatic-gliding-board~~ according to claim 10, wherein:

said expanded polypropylene particle foam has a compressive stress at 25% of deformation of approximately 350 kPa measured according to ISO standard 844.

Claim 12. (*Currently Amended*) A hollow surfboard ~~aquatic-gliding-board~~ according to claim 9, wherein:

said polypropylene foam comprises an expanded polypropylene particle foam having a density of approximately 20-100 kg/m³.

Claim 13. (*Currently Amended*) A hollow surfboard ~~aquatic-gliding-board~~ according to claim 12, wherein:

said expanded polypropylene particle foam has a compressive stress at 25% of deformation of approximately 100-600 kPa measured according to ISO standard 844.

Claim 14. (*Currently Amended*) A hollow surfboard ~~aquatic gliding board~~ according to claim 1, wherein:

each of said at least one longitudinal partition extends along at least 70 percent of the length of the inner cavity.

Claim 15. (*Currently Amended*) A surfboard ~~An aquatic gliding board~~ comprising:

a deck having a downwardly concave transverse cross section, said deck comprising a foam material, said deck being adapted to support a standing person during use of the ~~gliding board~~ surfboard;

a hull connected to said deck to form a subassembly, said hull comprising a foam material;

at least one longitudinally extending partition positioned within said subassembly interposed between said deck and to said hull, said partition comprising a polymeric elastic foam material having a compressible elasticity or viscoelasticity to provide said deck with an ability to deflect downwardly under pressure exerted by of a foot of a user on said deck relative to said hull and to cause said deck to recover from said deflection upon cessation of said pressure exerted by the foot.

Claim 16. (*Currently Amended*) A surfboard ~~An aquatic gliding board~~ according to claim 15, wherein:

said foam has a longitudinal side surface exposed to an inner cavity of the board.

Claim 17. (*Canceled*)

Claim 18. (*Currently Amended*) A surfboard ~~An aquatic gliding board~~ according to claim 15, wherein:

said material of said partition is polypropylene foam.

Claim 19. (*Currently Amended*) A surfboard ~~An aquatic gliding board~~ according to claim 18, wherein:

said polypropylene foam comprises an expanded polypropylene particle foam.

Claim 20. (*Currently Amended*) A surfboard ~~An aquatic gliding board~~ according to claim 15, wherein:

said foam material of said deck and said foam material of said hull comprise a polystyrene foam.

Claim 21. (*Currently Amended*) A surfboard ~~An aquatic gliding board~~ according to claim 20, wherein:

said material of said partition is polypropylene foam.

Claim 22. (*Currently Amended*) A surfboard ~~An aquatic gliding board~~ according to claim 21, wherein:

said polypropylene foam comprises expanded polypropylene particle foam.

Claim 23. (*Currently Amended*) ~~A hollow~~ surfboard ~~aquatic gliding board~~ according to claim 15, wherein:

said foam material of said deck and said foam material of said hull comprise an extruded polystyrene foam.

Claim 24. (*Currently Amended*) A surfboard ~~An aquatic gliding board~~ according to claim 23, wherein:

said material of said partition is polypropylene foam.

Claim 25. (*Currently Amended*) A surfboard ~~An aquatic gliding board~~ according to claim 24, wherein:

said polypropylene foam comprises expanded polypropylene particle foam.

Claim 26. (*Currently Amended*) A hollow surfboard ~~An aquatic gliding board~~ according to claim 15, wherein:

said foam material of said deck and said foam material of said hull comprise a thermoformed extruded polystyrene foam.

Claim 27. (*Currently Amended*) A surfboard ~~An aquatic gliding board~~ according to claim 26, wherein:

said material of said partition is polypropylene foam.

Claim 28. (*Currently Amended*) A surfboard ~~An aquatic gliding board~~ according to claim 27, wherein:

said polypropylene foam comprises expanded polypropylene particle foam.

Claim 29. (*Currently Amended*) A hollow surfboard ~~aquatic gliding board~~ according to claim 1, wherein:

said partition does not include a rigid honeycomb structure.

Claim 30. (*Currently Amended*) A surfboard ~~An aquatic gliding board~~ according to claim 15, wherein:

said partition does not include a honeycomb structure.

Claim 31. (*Currently Amended*) A hollow surfboard ~~aquatic gliding board~~ according to claim 1, wherein:

said foam of said longitudinal partition comprises a material continuous along a height and along a width of said foam.

Claim 32. (*Currently Amended*) A hollow surfboard ~~aquatic gliding board~~ according to claim 1, wherein:

all of said foam of said longitudinal partition is continuous along a height and along a width of said longitudinal partition.

Claim 33. (*Currently Amended*) A surfboard ~~An aquatic gliding board~~ according to claim 15, wherein:

said foam of said longitudinal partition comprises a material continuous along a height of said foam.

Claim 34. (*Currently Amended*) A surfboard ~~An aquatic gliding board~~ according to claim 15, wherein:

said longitudinal partition consists essentially of foam.

Claim 35. (*Currently Amended*) A surfboard ~~An aquatic gliding board~~ according to claim 15, wherein:

all of said foam of said longitudinal partition is continuous along a height and a width of said longitudinally extending partition.

Claim 36. (*Currently Amended*) A hollow surfboard ~~aquatic gliding board~~ according to claim 1, wherein:

said foam of said partition comprises a material having a compressible elasticity or viscoelasticity to allow said upper half-shell to deflect downwardly, relative to said lower half-shell, under pressure exerted by a foot of a user on said upper half-shell and to cause said upper half-shell to recover upwardly upon cessation of said pressure exerted by the foot.

Claim 37. (*Currently Amended*) A surfboard ~~An aquatic gliding board~~ according to claim 15, wherein:

said hull has no lateral side walls.

Claim 38. (*Currently Amended*) A surfboard ~~An aquatic gliding board~~ according to claim 15, wherein:

said foam material of said deck is a polyurethane foam or a polyetherimide foam.

Claim 39. (*Currently Amended*) A surfboard ~~An aquatic gliding board~~ according to claim 15, wherein:

said foam material of said deck is a polystyrene foam.

Claim 40. (*Currently Amended*) A surfboard ~~An aquatic gliding board~~ according to claim 15, wherein:

said foam material of said partition is a polypropylene foam.

Claim 41. (*Currently Amended*) A surfboard ~~An aquatic gliding board~~ according to claim 15, wherein:

said foam material of said partition is an expanded polypropylene foam.

Claim 42. (*Currently Amended*) A hollow surfboard ~~aquatic gliding board~~ according to claim 1, wherein:

said upper half-shell further comprises a honeycomb structure in an area of said upper half-shell adapted to support a user's feet.

Claim 43. (*Currently Amended*) A surfboard ~~An aquatic gliding board~~ according to claim 15, wherein:

said deck further comprises a honeycomb structure in an area of said deck adapted to support a user's feet.

Claim 44. (*Currently Amended*) A hollow surfboard ~~aquatic gliding board~~ according to claim 1, wherein:

said upper half-shell is not symmetrical with respect to said lower half-shell.

Claim 45. (*Currently Amended*) A surfboard ~~An aquatic gliding board~~ according to claim 15, wherein:

said deck is not symmetrical with respect to said hull.

Claim 46. (*Currently Amended*) A surfboard ~~An aquatic gliding board~~ comprising:
a deck adapted to support a standing person during use of the ~~gliding board~~
surfboard, said deck comprising a foam material;
a hull supporting said deck, said hull comprising a foam material, said deck
and said hull enclosing an inner cavity having a length and a width;
at least one longitudinal partition consisting essentially of a foam material;
said partition extending between said deck and said hull along at least a
portion of said length of said inner cavity to support said deck relative to said hull, said
foam material of said partition allowing said deck to deflect downwardly relative to said
hull under pressure exerted by a foot of a user on said deck.

Claim 47. (*Currently Amended*) A surfboard ~~An aquatic gliding board~~ according to
claim 46, wherein:
said longitudinal partition extends along at least about 70% of the length of
said inner cavity.

Claim 48. (*Currently Amended*) A surfboard ~~An aquatic gliding board~~ according to
claim 46, wherein:
said deck is not symmetrical with respect to said hull.

Claim 49. (*Currently Amended*) A surfboard ~~An aquatic gliding board~~ according to
claim 46, wherein:
the board has an initial shape;

said partition comprises a polymeric elastic or viscoelastic compressible foam material;

said foam material provides said deck with an ability to deflect downwardly relative to said hull by compressing under pressure exerted by a foot of a user on said deck;

said foam material further provides said board with an ability to recover said initial shape upon cessation of said pressure of the foot of the user.

Claim 50. (*Currently Amended*) A surfboard ~~An aquatic gliding board~~ comprising:

a deck adapted to support a standing person during use of the ~~gliding board~~ surfboard, said deck comprising a foam material;

a hull supporting said deck, said hull comprising a foam material, said deck and said hull enclosing an inner cavity having a length, a width, and a height;

at least one longitudinal partition comprising a structural element to support said deck relative to said hull, said longitudinal partition comprising a polymeric foam material extending along substantially the height of said inner cavity from said deck to said hull, said foam material being compressible under a force exerted on the deck by the foot of the standing person;

said longitudinal partition further comprising no additional structural element extending along at least a majority of said height of said inner cavity.

Claim 51. (*Currently Amended*) A surfboard ~~An aquatic gliding board~~ according to claim 50, wherein:

said longitudinal partition extends along at least about 70% of the length of said inner cavity.

Claim 52. (*Currently Amended*) A surfboard ~~An aquatic gliding board~~ according to claim 50, wherein:

said deck is not symmetrical with respect to said hull.